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# AS HISTORY

## Tsarist and Communist Russia, 1855–1917

Paper 1H

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Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **1H**.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
    - 50 minutes on Section A
    - 40 minutes on Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

Alexander II gave Russia a definite push to the West. He was the greatest reformer tsar since Peter the Great and put an end to a thousand years of Russian slavery by emancipating the serfs. But he did more than free 23 million Russian slaves; he reformed Russian life by changing the justice system, the army and the very form of government. 'The Thaw', and 'The Russian Renaissance' were some of the terms for Alexander's reign used by the press. However, like all reformers who followed him, he failed to understand one basic truth: 'Starting reforms in Russia is dangerous, but it is much more dangerous to stop them.'

Adapted from Edvard Radzinsky, *Alexander II the Last Great Tsar*, 2005

**Extract B**

Faced with the shock of defeat in the Crimea, Alexander II reluctantly tried to face up to the challenges of the modern world by beginning a cautious process of change. There was, however, no plan behind the reforms. They were conceived, enacted and administered in a clumsy piecemeal fashion. Alexander's reforms satisfied no one. The absolutist autocracy remained and the 1870s saw a period of reaction. The era of the mistakenly – named 'great' reforms, witnessed the beginnings of a spectacular new phase in the Russian revolutionary movement. It was the product of disappointment, bewilderment and exasperation.

Adapted from Alan Wood, *The Romanov Empire*, 2007

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the reforms of Alexander II between 1855 and 1881?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

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**EITHER**

**0 2**

‘Tsarist authority remained strong in Russia between 1881 and 1904.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**OR**

**0 3**

‘Bolshevik success in the October/November 1917 revolution was due to successive governments’ failure to meet peasant demands following their emancipation in 1861.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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